24th March 1955]

MR. SPEAKER :—" It has nothing to do with the main question. Let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, when the lathi-charge took place, one of the persons present there took photographs of the clash between the police and the workers. Later he told the Sub-Inspector that he was doing an illegal thing and that he was going to produce those photographs to the Members of the Assembly. In that connexion the Sub-Inspector was alleged to have said :' പാർലിമെന്റും അസംബ്ലിയും എനിക്കു പുല്ലാണ്. 'that is, ' I care a hang for the Assembly and the Parliament.' That is why this question is relevant."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot understand how it is relevant."

Family planning.

* 1586 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) The amount allotted by the Government for family planning programme;

(*b*) whether any machinery has been set up and persons trained; and

(*c*) what are the plans evolved by the Government for educating the people on sex and family planning?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Government have sanctioned, with the financial assistance of the Government of India, a scheme for family planning at a cost of Rs. 56,000 (recurring and non-recurring).

" (*b*) Nil.

" (*c*) The Government have proposed to print pamphlets on Family Planning in the regional languages and distribute them to the public with a view to educate them in the methods of birth control.

" The 8 family planning clinics proposed to be opened will also demonstrate the use of birth control equipment and contraceptives."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Would family planning include giving instructions to persons who wish to beget children? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Perhaps the hon. Member means barren people. How does that come under family planning? "

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, family planning not only includes birth control but also instructions to persons who do not have children, how to beget children."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. A research centre is proposed to be opened at the Women and Children's Hospital, Egmore, to deal with ' sub-fertility '."

[24th March 1955

Sri N. C. RAMASAMY KANDER :—" கிராமங்களிலேயே அதிகமான குழந்தைகள் பிறப்பதால் இந்த குடும்பக கட்டுப்பாட்டு நிலையங்களை கிராமங்களிலேயே அதிகமாக ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Perhaps the hon. Member wants that family planning centres should be opened in rural areas. They will have to be opened in course of time."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is there any process by which this family planning has yielded any appreciable results after so much of money was spent lavishly for it in the City of Madras? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" It is bound to produce good results. To-day family planning is widely practised in all Western countries."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" May I know whether any special staff has been provided for doing propaganda on 'Family Planning' and if so, the number of members of the staff? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The necessary staff will be employed at the full-time family planning clinics in 8 of our hospitals and propaganda also will be done."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he will ask medical officers to convene periodical meetings of women in the villages and explain to them the utility of this scheme? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" It is proposed to give this advice to women who need it at Women and Children's Hospitals and at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres."

Sri S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" Till some time ago it was the rhythm method that was propagated. Recently the Delhi Municipality has given up that system because it has proved to be a failure. Now what is the alternative method which is being propagated for family planning? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The generally approved and most widely practised method is the use of diaphragm and jelly. This is a combination of mechanical and chemical contraceptives."

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" Women's Welfare organisations can do a lot of service in this field of family planning. I wish to know whether the Government have sought the assistance of these organizations and the Women's Welfare Department? How many women are working in that Department and what is the strength of the family of each woman? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, voluntary women's organizations are taking great interest in this matter and they are doing their bit of work and the Government will help them."

24th March 1955]

SRI S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister the measures which have been taken in the villages to propagate family planning? Also will the Government come forward to provide some special staff to do more propaganda work about it in the villages? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question has already been put."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will take some more time for this scheme to be extended to villages. Unfortunately in the villages they are resorting to artificial abortion."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" It has been noticed by experts that birth rate is higher among the poorer classes than among the well-to-do people. Therefore, as part of the scheme of family planning, will the Government take real steps to raise the standard of living of the poorer sections of the people? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, the object of our Five-Year Plans is also to raise the standard of life of the people. When their living standard goes up, the number of children born to them also diminishes and that is the experience in all civilized countries."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the womenfolk in the Tamil Nad consider that it is a sin to control birth which they feel is an attempt to murder. If so, what do the Government propose to do in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is making a confusion between birth control and murder. There is no murder in it as it is only a prevention of conception."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Preventing birth is considered to be a very great sin by our womenfolk especially in the villages."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is not properly informed. Women welcome birth control more than men do. Women in many places in this country have asked for contraceptives. They also want that sterilization should be done by doctors and many men and women are gradually coming to have it done."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will the Government do the simple sterilization operation free of cost? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Those who are entitled to free treatment can have it done free of cost."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has any prescription been discovered as yet which is really not injurious to the health of the person? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Present-day approved methods are safe. They are effective and they are acceptable to most people."